IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 172

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES; AMENDING TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 64, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING CREDIT FOR EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND POLICIES, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND A CERTAIN AGREEMENT, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING CREDIT FOR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE, AND TO PROVIDE RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chapter 64, Title 33, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

CHAPTER 64
EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

33-6401. EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES. Students attending public schools in Idaho shall be eligible for extended learning opportunities outside of the traditional classroom. For the purposes of this chapter, "extended learning opportunity" means an out-of-classroom learning experience that provides a student with:

   (1) Enrichment opportunities outside of a classroom setting;
   (2) Career readiness or employability skills, including internships, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships; or
   (3) Any other type of out-of-classroom educational opportunity approved by the state board of education or the student's school district or public charter school.

33-6402. CREDIT FOR EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES -- POLICIES. (1) A student may request credit for an extended learning opportunity. If the extended learning opportunity is approved:

   (a) By the student's school district or public charter school, then the student shall receive credit toward:

      (i) District- or school-specific graduation requirements, if the student is a middle level or high school student; or
      (ii) Mastery toward required skills or district- or school-specific standards, if the student is an elementary student; or

   (b) By the state board of education, then the student shall receive credit toward:

      (i) State graduation requirements, if the student is a middle level or high school student; or
      (ii) Mastery toward required skills or state standards, if the student is an elementary student.
(2) Each school district and public charter school shall adopt an extended learning opportunities policy to:
   (a) Provide a process through which entities may apply to offer extended learning opportunities that will qualify for credit;
   (b) Define which entities are eligible to submit applications to offer extended learning opportunities. These entities may include but are not limited to:
      (i) Nonprofit organizations;
      (ii) Businesses with established locations in the state;
      (iii) Trade associations; and
      (iv) For middle level or high school students, the United States armed forces;
   (c) Provide for a process through which a student may request credit for an extended learning opportunity; and
   (d) Define criteria that the school district or public charter school will use to determine whether a proposed extended learning opportunity qualifies for credit toward:
      (i) Core of instruction graduation requirements;
      (ii) Electives; or
      (iii) Required skills or standards.
   (3) The state board of education shall adopt a policy regarding extended learning opportunities.
   (4) A school district or a public charter school may award elective credit for an extended learning opportunity that did not qualify for credit toward core of instruction graduation requirements.
   (5) Credit earned outside of school may not be used to calculate average daily attendance or enrollment for school funding purposes.

33-6403. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES -- AGREEMENT TO REQUIREMENTS. Policies and procedures established by a school district or a public charter school shall be such that students have an opportunity to request credit for extended learning opportunities and meet district- or school-established timelines and requirements. To earn credit for an extended learning opportunity under this chapter, the student must agree to the requirements set forth by the school district or public charter school.

33-6404. CREDIT FOR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE. (1) Starting in fiscal year 2023, a high school student may request credit for a course by demonstrating an understanding of subject area content standards. The board of each school district and public charter school shall adopt a policy to:
   (a) Provide a process through which a student may request credit for prior knowledge;
   (b) Establish methods by which a student can demonstrate knowledge of the subject area content. Methods may include but are not limited to:
      (i) Assessments;
      (ii) Performance-based assessments;
      (iii) Presentations, major projects, or papers;
      (iv) Performance or portfolios; or
      (v) Other methods independent of instructional time and credit hours;
(c) Determine the qualifying score or grade, the minimum of which should not exceed eighty percent (80%), that a student must earn in order to receive a pass and earn credit for a course.

(2) If a student earns credit under this section, then the student shall be counted as having completed all required coursework for that course and, if applicable, the prerequisite requirements that the course satisfies. A course for which a student is awarded credit under this section shall also be counted as satisfying the equivalent number of credits toward the student's graduation requirements.

(3) If credit is earned under this section, a student may not subsequently receive credit for a course earlier in the course sequence in the same subject area.

33-6405. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The state board of education may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this chapter.